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NATIONS

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S/1996/674
20 August 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PROGRESS REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE SITUATION CONCERNING WESTERN SAHARA

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 1056 (1996) of 29 May 1996, requesting me to report by 31 August 1996 on the outcome of efforts to overcome the impasse in the implementation of the settlement plan (S/21360 and S/22464). In that resolution, the Security Council endorsed my recommendation that the identification process be suspended until such time as both parties, Morocco and the Frente POLISARIO, provide concrete and convincing evidence that they are committed to resuming and completing it without further obstacles, in accordance with the plan. The Security Council supported my proposal to reduce the strength of the military component of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) by 20 per cent on the understanding that this would not impair its operational effectiveness in monitoring the cease-fire. It also supported my proposal to maintain a political office to continue the dialogue with the parties and the neighbouring countries, Algeria and Mauritania, and called upon the parties, as a demonstration of good will, to cooperate in the release of Saharan political prisoners and the exchange of prisoners of war on humanitarian grounds, as soon as possible.

2. Section II of the present report covers the discussions with the parties and the neighbouring countries undertaken by my Acting Special Representative, Mr. Erik Jensen; section III deals with the identification process; section IV addresses other aspects of the plan, and section V covers the military and civilian police components.

II. MEETINGS WITH THE PARTIES AND NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

3. My proposal to maintain a political office, as supported by the Security Council, has been implemented. It is led by my Acting Special Representative, who has been active in continuing the dialogue with the parties and the two neighbouring countries, and has made repeated efforts to help set the parties on course for the resolution of their differences. He is assisted by a small

staff in Laayoune and the Tindouf area. The role of the office will be strengthened, as needed, in the light of developments.

4. Upon the adoption of resolution 1056 (1996), my Acting Special Representative requested early meetings with the parties. Since then, he has met several times with representatives of the Government of Morocco, including the Minister of the Interior, Mr. Driss Basri. He has also had several meetings with leaders of the Frente POLISARIO, including the Frente POLISARIO Coordinator with MINURSO, Mr. Bachir Mustafa Sayed. In addition, he has visited the neighbouring countries: on 17 July 1996 he met in Algiers with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Algeria, Mr. Ahmed Attaf, and on 23 July 1996, he was received in Nouakchott by the President of Mauritania, His Excellency Mr. Maaouiya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya, and also met with Mr. Lemrabet Sidi Mahmoud Uld Sheikh Ahmed, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mauritania.

5. At these meetings the discussion focused on ways of breaking the current impasse in the implementation of the settlement plan, particularly issues highlighted by the Security Council: the resumption of identification, the release of political prisoners, the exchange of prisoners of war, and the exploration of options for other confidence-building measures.

6. In order to resolve the principal obstacle to the resumption of identification, my Acting Special Representative discussed the idea of organizing a gathering of tribal leaders (sheikhs), selected according to stringent criteria relating to their individually recognized status, their earlier participation in identification, and with balanced tribal affinity. These sheikhs would be asked to determine the subfractions belonging to the Territory whose members would have the right to be identified. Although both Morocco and the Frente POLISARIO have again professed their commitment to the settlement plan, their positions regarding the resumption of identification remain irreconcilable, as presented in paragraphs 25 and 26 of my report of 8 May 1996 (S/1996/343). Furthermore, while the Frente POLISARIO invokes the compromise proposals contained in my reports of 28 July 1993 (S/26185) and 10 March 1994 (S/1994/283), that applicants should be members of "a Saharan subfraction included in the 1974 census", the Government of Morocco maintains, to the contrary, that the contested groups are like other subfractions, that there can be no basis for dealing differently with their members, and that the language used in the compromise proposals was not intended to make any such distinction. In these circumstances, a meeting of sheikhs could not be expected to contribute to a solution.

7. The Government of Algeria has reiterated its support for our efforts and has suggested, as a means of breaking the impasse, an approach based on a "package deal" to cover all aspects of the settlement plan as most likely to secure the agreement of the two sides. Algeria considers that negotiation is necessary and believes that certain influential Governments might be increasingly interested in moving the process forward. While viewing the current situation as critical and fraught with potential instability and danger to the region, the Government of Mauritania also considers the moment opportune for renewed effort. It is fully supportive of our efforts to find ways to overcome the impasse.

III. IDENTIFICATION COMMISSION

8. Before the suspension of the identification process, 77,058 applicants had been convoked, and 60,112 of them had been identified. Subsequently, a further 163,980 files have been prepared for convocation. Identification, in accordance with my compromise proposal, was based on strict criteria as to acceptable evidence and always took place openly in the presence of representatives of both sides and an observer of the Organization of African Unity (OAU). All cases presented for identification have since been meticulously reviewed. Applicants' files were re-examined in family groups in order to correlate information and ensure consistent decision-making. All the data was further computer scrutinized and verified.

9. The staff of the Identification Commission has been reduced. While most left at the end of March or the end of May, 22 staff members were asked to remain through July in order to close the remaining centres and to prepare the identification archives for storage. The identification centres in the Territory, at Boujdour, Dakhla, Smara and Laayoune, were closed in April and early May. The registration centre in Nouadhibou, which had been scaled down in March, was closed at the end of May. In the Tindouf area, sensitive equipment was relocated from the centres in Auserd Camp, El-Aiun Camp, Smara Camp and Dajla Camp to the Tindouf base in late June/early July. On 16 and 23 July from Laayoune, and on 6 August from Tindouf, the identification archives were transferred by United Nations aircraft to the United Nations Office at Geneva. Arrangements have been made for the secure storage of the files.

10. With the suspension of the identification process, most of the OAU observers departed. However, a high-level OAU presence remains to ensure continued cooperation with MINURSO. I should like, once again, to express my appreciation to OAU for its contribution throughout the identification process and for its continuing support for the implementation of the settlement plan.

IV. OTHER ASPECTS OF THE SETTLEMENT PLAN

Release of political prisoners

11. Pursuant to paragraph 9 of resolution 1056 (1996), arrangements were made in cooperation with my Acting Special Representative for the Independent Jurist, Mr. Emmanuel Roucounas, to visit the mission area urgently and the first visit took place in early July. In Rabat, the Independent Jurist, together with my Acting Special Representative, met with the Moroccan authorities to follow up on an unofficial list containing the names and dates of arrest of alleged Saharan political prisoners, which had been communicated earlier to the Government of Morocco.

12. The Moroccan authorities responded that research concerning the persons listed, conducted since the last meeting with the Independent Jurist in September 1995, indicated that eight persons who, a year ago, had been condemned to long prison sentences, but whose term had been reduced to one year as a result of a royal pardon, were to be released in early July. As for the rest, the Moroccan authorities said a considerable number was unknown, some names were

allegedly duplicated in the list, some had been freed, some were already dead, and a small number were said to be with the Frente POLISARIO.

13. The Moroccan authorities informed the Independent Jurist that, at this stage, they were not prepared to discuss individual names and cases in the unofficial list. They indicated readiness, however, to engage in discussion of a formal list established by the Independent Jurist on the basis of definite elements provided by the Frente POLISARIO and transmitted to the Moroccan authorities officially by the United Nations.

14. The Independent Jurist inquired about the situation of 10 young Saharans who, according to a letter from the Frente POLISARIO dated 17 July 1996, addressed to my Acting Special Representative, had been arrested in Boujdour on 20 May 1996. The Moroccan authorities responded that they were not aware of any detentions for political reasons.

15. After his discussions with the Moroccan authorities, the Independent Jurist and the Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General travelled to Las Palmas where they met with representatives of the Frente POLISARIO. The Frente POLISARIO stressed the need for effective action on the question of political detainees and announced its readiness to contribute to the work of the Independent Jurist. The Independent Jurist informed the representatives of the Frente POLISARIO of his readiness to visit the Tindouf area during the second half of August 1996.

Exchange of prisoners of war

16. The goal of an early release of prisoners of war, on humanitarian grounds, is being explored.

V. MILITARY AND CIVILIAN POLICE ASPECTS

Military component

17. The reduction of the military component by 20 per cent has been implemented gradually through the non-replacement of observers at the close of their tours of duty. As of the end of August, the number of military personnel will have been reduced from 288 to 258 (see annex I), and will reach 232 by the end of September. The approved figure of 230 will be attained in October.

18. The reduction in personnel has required an adjustment in the distribution of patrolling activities in the field, in order to maintain the presence and visibility of observers and their contacts with the parties at the optimum level. Thus, though the size of the sector headquarters staffs has been reduced, Sector South headquarters at Dakhla has been retained, while the team site at Dougåj, which had no airstrip, was closed on 8 August and its operational activities transferred to Agwanit team site. The other four team sites in that Sector continue to mount the same number of patrols as before the curtailment, despite the reduced number of staff.

19. The cease-fire continues to hold. However, a few days prior to the adoption of resolution 1056 (1996) on 29 May 1996, my Acting Special Representative was obliged to protest strongly about steps taken by some local POLISARIO commanders. The latter purported to place restrictions on the freedom of movement of MINURSO observers at some team sites, apparently to register their concern about the discussions over the draft resolution then taking place in New York. Though the matter was swiftly resolved, United Nations military observers noted a number of technical violations on the part of POLISARIO forces throughout June. These included unauthorized live-fire exercises and unauthorized movements of weapons.

20. POLISARIO regional military commanders have also expressed frustration at the impasse in the political process. In contacts with United Nations military observers, they have said they would continue to await a political solution until 30 November 1996, when the current mandate of MINURSO expired. However, if no progress was achieved, they said they would have no option but to return to war, since a cease-fire in the absence of a political agreement acted to their disadvantage.

Civilian police component

21. During the reporting period, the civilian police component of MINURSO, headed by Brigadier-General Walter Fallmann (Austria), was reduced from 44 to 7 (see annex II), in keeping with the reduction in the work of the Identification Commission and the reduced budget allocation for this component. Upon the departure of Brigadier-General Fallmann on 25 July, his deputy, Lieutenant Colonel Jan Kleven (Norway), became Acting Police Commissioner.

22. The civilian police maintained 24-hour security at the identification centres until their closure and provided technical assistance in closing centres, packing identification materials and ensuring their safe transfer to Geneva. The remaining civilian police component continues to ensure the security of computerized information and other sensitive equipment in Laayoune and Tindouf, provides other assistance to the Mission and maintains relations with the local civilian police authorities.

23. Comparable reductions have been made in the personnel assigned to administration and related support services.

VI. OBSERVATIONS

24. Given the current positions of the two parties, it is unlikely that the identification process will be resumed any time soon. I believe the current deadlock can be broken and progress achieved only when both parties recognize that identification is a scrupulous process based on clear principles, and in the context of a broader agreement.

25. I appeal to the two parties to demonstrate flexibility and to cooperate with my Acting Special Representative in his efforts to help them find a solution to their differences. I hope that the support expressed by the two neighbouring countries both to myself and to my Acting Special Representative

will also contribute to overcoming the current impasse. I also appeal to Member States that have influence with the parties to lend their support to the efforts of the United Nations.

26. I should like to express my satisfaction that the cease-fire is holding. I appeal to both sides to continue upholding it as efforts continue to seek a solution to the current impasse.

Annex I

CURRENT MINURSO STRENGTH

	Current strength		
	UNMOs	Support units	Personnel
Argentina	1		1
Austria	4		4
Bangladesh	7		7
China	16		16
Egypt	12		12
El Salvador	2		2
France	27		27
Ghana	6	7	13 a/
Greece	1		1
Guinea	3		3
Honduras	12		12
Ireland	8		8
Italy	5		5
Kenya	10		10
Malaysia	14		14
Nigeria	3		3
Pakistan	5		5
Poland	3		3
Portugal	6		6
Republic of Korea	2	40	42 b/
Russian Federation	25		25
Tunisia	9		9
Uruguay	12		12
United States of America	15		15
Venezuela	3		3
TOTAL	211	47	258

a/ Ghana support units = 7 nco clerks.

b/ Medical personnel only.

Annex II

MINURSO

Civilian police officers

	CIVPOL
Austria	2
Hungary	1
Norway	1
Togo	2
Uruguay	1
TOTAL	7

Map No. 3691 Rev. 9 UNITED NATIONS
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Cartographic Section

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LETTER DATED 20 AUGUST 1996 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to your attention the following instances of violations by Iraq of the terms of the cease-fire between the two countries.

1. On 31 March 1996, at 1030 hours, a number of Iraqi armed smugglers crossed the border and penetrated about 10 kilometres into the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the area of Jarahieh and Showeib in Dasht-e Azadegan at the geographical coordinates of 38R QV 710-920 on the map of Saidieh, and took three residents named Mohammad Bou-Ezar, son of Sejeb, Rasoul Bou-Ezar, son of Sheikh Jafel, and Mohsen Bou-Ezar, son of Zeboun, to the other side of the border.

2. On 1 April 1996, about 20 Iraqi forces were observed removing earth by using a loader and five trucks near the geographical coordinates of 38R QA 88100-21000 on the map of Chazzabeh, between north-west of border pillar 15 and south of border pillar 16 and the geographical coordinates of 38R QA 68000-14000 on the map of Saidieh, in no man's land.

3. On 2 April 1996, between 0830 and 1700 hours, an Iraqi loader, a roller and seven trucks were observed removing earth at the geographical coordinates of 38R QA 69000-14000 on the map of Saidieh, in no man's land.

4. On 4 April 1996, two Iraqi loaders were observed removing earth at the geographical coordinates of 38R QA 52000-26000 on the map of Khosravi-Abad, north of Nahr-e Khalfan and south of Iraqi Nahr-e Ma'amir.

5. On 4 April 1996, between 0830 and 1700 hours, Iraqi forces were observed conducting engineering activities by using a loader, a roller and four trucks near the geographical coordinates of 38R QA 69000-14000 on the map of Saidieh.

6. On 6 April 1996, at 0800 hours, a number of Iraqi forces were observed constructing an observation post near the geographical coordinates of 39R TQ 165-310 on the map of Istagah-e Hosseinieh or Kharman, west of border pillar 11, in no man's land.

7. On 8 April 1996, at 0930 hours, Iraqi forces were observed installing an 82 millimetre mortar near the geographical coordinates of 39R TP 150-870 on the map of Nim-Istgah-Navad, west of border pillar 7/10, in no man's land.

8. On 13 April 1996, from 0700 hours to 0700 hours on 14 April 1996, a total of 198 Iraqi motor boats, carrying 575 personnel and being supported by two logistic ferries, were observed patrolling the Arvand Rud.

9. On 14 April 1996, two Iraqi vehicles - a Toyota and a Patrol - carrying seven passengers clad in green outfits and armed with Klashnikov and Grinov automatic machine-guns were observed at the geographical coordinates of 38S PB 104-726 on the map of Mehran, north of Kanjancham river and south of Zalou-Ab mountain and border pillar 33. They were moving from Iraq's Mohammad-Ghassem sentry post towards Doraji sentry post opposite Reza-Abad border post.

10. On 16 April 1996, at 0300 hours, a number of Iraqi forces were ambushed by Iranian forces at the geographical coordinates of 38S ND 500-260 on the map of Ghasr-Shirin. After 10 minutes of conflict, they fled into the territory of Iraq under the cover of night.

11. On 23 April 1996, four group tents, each with a masted flag of red, blue, black and yellow, were set up at the geographical coordinates of 38S NC 383-998 on the map of Khosravi, west of border pillars 51 and 52. About 50 Iraqi forces were observed in bunkers, in the heights and inside the tents, being trained to occupy positions.

12. On 28 April 1996, at 1900 hours, 10 Iraqi forces installed an anti-aircraft cannon near the geographical coordinates of 38S ND 356-032 on the map of Khosravi, near Khaneghein silo.

13. On 29 April 1996, Iraqi forces began setting up 20 group tents near the geographical coordinates of 38R QV 550-580 on the map of west Jofair, section 2, south of border pillar 14/A6 and north of border pillar 14/A5, in no man's land.

14. On 5 May 1996, 37 Iraqi motor boats, with a total of 110 personnel, which were supported by three ferries, were observed patrolling the Arvand Rud, harassing Iranian fishermen.

15. On 6 May 1996, at 1800 hours, an Iraqi trailer carrying a loader entered Eastern Shahabieh sentry post at the geographical coordinates of 38S PB 350-430 on the map of Kouh-Tunnel, in no man's land, south of border pillar 51/10, and left the area for the military township at the geographical coordinates of 38S PB 350-380 on the map of Kouh-Tunnel in Iraq's Ghaleh village after disembarking the loader.

16. On 6 May 1996, 26 motor boats, with a total of 100 personnel, which were supported by four tugboats, were observed patrolling the Arvand Rud, harassing Iranian fishermen.

17. On 7 and 8 May 1996, 82 Iraqi motor boats, with a total of 250 personnel, were observed patrolling the Arvand Rud.

18. On 8 May 1996, crossing the border and penetrating into the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran, a number of anti-revolutionary elements entered Baveh village at the geographical coordinates of 38S NF 350-030 on the map of Sardasht and planted three anti-vehicle mines which were defused by the Iranian border police.

19. On 9 May 1996, Iraqi forces began constructing an observation post on top and on the right side of the Al-Hossein sentry post at the geographical coordinates of 38S ND 405-138 on the map of Khosravi, in no man's land, south of Darband-Jough and border pillar 56/1 and south of border pillar 57.

20. On 9 May 1996, an Iraqi motor boat whose personnel were armed with Klashnikov weapons was observed patrolling between Minu Island and the confluence of the Karoun river and Arvand Rud, harassing Iranian fishermen.

21. On 11 May 1996, at 1000 hours, 22 Iraqi motor boats, each carrying two to four personnel, were observed patrolling near the geographical coordinates of 39R TP 273-063 on the map of Khorramshahr, in no man's land opposite the confluence of the Karoun river and Arvand Rud.

22. On 11 May 1996, at 1430 hours, 30 Iraqi motor boats, each carrying four personnel and one masted flag, were observed patrolling the Arvand Rud, coming from the side of Khorramshahr towards Abadan and the mouth of the Arvand Rud, and harassing Iranian fishermen.

23. On 11 May 1996, 87 Iraqi motor boats, with a total of 235 personnel, were observed patrolling the Arvand Rud, harassing Iranian fishermen.

24. On 12 May 1996, five Iraqi soldiers began installing a Dush-k automatic machine-gun on top of a newly constructed post at the geographical coordinates of 38S ND 405-138 on the map of Khosravi between north and south of border pillars 56/1 and 57 in no man's land.

25. On 14 May 1996, six Iraqi soldiers were observed setting up barbed wire at the geographical coordinates of 38S NC 470-544 on the map of Sumar, in no man's land, north-west of border pillar 44/7.

26. On 14 May 1996, 50 Iraqi forces were observed being trained to occupy positions near the geographical coordinates of 38S NC 383-998 on the map of Khosravi, west of border pillars 51 and 52, south of height 254.

27. On 19 May 1996, at 1550 hours, an Iraqi loader was observed removing earth near the geographical coordinates of 39R TP 530-260 on the map of Khosro-Abad, north of Nahr-e Ma'amir, opposite Iran's Nahr-e Seyyed-Shahab, in no man's land.

28. On 20 May 1996, Iraqi forces stationed at the geographical coordinates of 38S NC 572-396 on the map of Sumar, Kouma-Sang mountain, in no man's land, west of border pillar 40/5, fired a rifle grenade towards the geographical coordinates of 38S NC 583-387 on the map of Sumar, Kouma-Sang mountain, in no man's land, south of border pillar 40/5.

29. On 20 May 1996, at 2230 hours, Iraqi forces stationed near the geographical coordinates of 38S NC 459-993 on the map of Khosravi, west of border pillars 51 and 52, in no man's land, north of Chizrad sentry post, fired several bullets with light weapons and also an illuminating bullet towards the geographical coordinates of 38S NC 497-988 on the map of Kharatha, between north and south-west of border pillars 48 and 49, Iran's Tankab border post in the area of Zeinal-Ghods. Two bullets hit the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran near the geographical coordinates of 38S NC 536-975 on the map of Kharatha, south-east of border pillar 48.

30. On 21 May 1996, from 0745 to 1110 hours, 100 Iraqi forces were observed being trained near the geographical coordinates of 38S NC 3883-9980 on the map of Khosravi, north of Ab-Halavan.

31. On 22 and 23 May 1996, 98 Iraqi motor boats, with a total of 240 personnel, supported by two tugboats, were observed patrolling the Arvand Rud, harassing Iranian fishermen.

32. On 31 May 1996, 143 Iraqi motor boats, carrying a total of 250 personnel, supported by four launches, were observed patrolling the Arvand Rud.

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Majid Takht RAVANCHI
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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LETTER DATED 20 AUGUST 1996 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED BY RESOLUTION 661 (1990) CONCERNING THE SITUATION BETWEEN IRAQ AND KUWAIT ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith for the attention of the members of the Council the report of the Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) concerning the situation between Iraq and Kuwait pursuant to paragraph 6, subparagraph (f), of the guidelines to facilitate full international implementation of paragraphs 24, 25 and 27 of Security Council resolution 687 (1991).

The report was approved by the Committee on 19 August 1996.

(Signed) Tono EITEL
Chairman
Security Council Committee
established by resolution 661 (1990)
concerning the situation between
Iraq and Kuwait

Annex

Report of the Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) concerning the situation between Iraq and Kuwait pursuant to paragraph 6, subparagraph (f), of the guidelines to facilitate full international implementation of paragraphs 24, 25 and 27 of Security Council resolution 687 (1991)

1. The present report is submitted by the Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) concerning the situation between Iraq and Kuwait, in accordance with paragraph 6, subparagraph (f), of the guidelines, a/ for facilitating full international implementation of paragraphs 24, 25 and 27 of Security Council resolution 687 (1991) of 3 April 1991 approved by Security Council resolution 700 (1991) of 17 June 1991.

2. Under paragraph 6, subparagraph (f), of the guidelines, the Committee is required to report at 90-day intervals to the Security Council on the implementation of the arms and related sanctions against Iraq contained in the relevant resolutions of the Security Council. The present report is the twenty-first report submitted under the above-mentioned guidelines. The preceding reports were submitted on 13 September b/ and 10 December 1991, c/ 12 March, d/ 11 June, e/ 8 September f/ and 4 December 1992, g/ 19 March, h/ 7 June, i/ 7 September j/ and 14 December 1993, k/ 4 March, l/ 6 June, m/ 2 September n/ and 29 November 1994, o/ 1 March, p/ 30 May, q/ 25 August r/ and 27 November 1995, s/ and 21 February t/ and 20 May 1996. u/

3. By paragraph 12 of the guidelines, all States are requested to report to the Committee any information that may have come to their attention relating to possible violations of the arms and related sanctions against Iraq committed by other States or foreign nationals. During the period under review, no official communication containing such information as requested by paragraph 12 of the guidelines has been received by the Committee.

4. In accordance with paragraphs 13 and 15 of the guidelines, all States and international organizations are required to consult the Committee on the question of whether certain items fall within the provisions of paragraph 24 of resolution 687 (1991), as well as in cases relating to dual-use or multiple-use items, that is, items meant for civilian use but with potential for diversion or conversion to military use. During the period covered by the report, a list of notifiable items as provided by the United Nations Special Commission was transmitted to Committee members with regard to the categorized list of humanitarian supplies annexed to the Distribution Plan submitted by the Government of Iraq for the implementation of resolution 986 (1995). Items on the list are subject to notification to the joint unit in accordance with the procedures adopted by resolution 1051 (1996) concerning the export/import mechanism for monitoring future sales or supplies to Iraq of dual-use items which could assist Iraq in the production or acquisition of proscribed weapons.

5. By paragraph 14 of the guidelines, international organizations are requested to provide the Committee with any relevant information that may come

to their attention. During the period under review, no information as requested by paragraph 14 of the guidelines has been received by the Committee.

6. The Committee will continue its efforts to fulfil the mandate entrusted to it. Since the last report of the Secretary-General, dated 4 December 1991, v/ no further communications have been received from Member States pursuant to paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 700 (1991).

Notes

a/ S/22660, annex.

b/ S/23036.

c/ S/23279.

d/ S/23708.

e/ S/24083.

f/ S/24545.

g/ S/24912.

h/ S/25442.

i/ S/25930.

j/ S/26430.

k/ S/26874.

l/ S/1994/274.

m/ S/1994/695.

n/ S/1994/1027.

o/ S/1994/1367.

p/ S/1995/169.

q/ S/1995/442.

r/ S/1995/744.

s/ S/1995/992.

t/ S/1996/127.

u/ S/1996/361.

v/ S/22884/Add.2.

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LETTER DATED 20 AUGUST 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF YEMEN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter from Mr. Abdulkarim Al-Eryani, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Yemen, concerning the latest developments in connection with Eritrea's actions on Yemen's Lesser Hanish Island.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdalla Saleh AL-ASHTAL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 19 August 1996 from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Yemen addressed to the President of the Security Council

Further to my letter of 17 August 1996 addressed to you concerning my country's compliance with the Security Council's appeal for the exercise of the utmost self-restraint with regard to the fresh Eritrean act of aggression against Yemen's Lesser Hanish Island and for the diplomatic efforts being made by the United Nations and France to be given a chance to succeed in solving this new and dangerous complication contrived by Etitrea, I should like to inform the Council that yesterday, 18 August 1996, in a meeting with His Excellency the President of the Republic, Lieutenant-General Ali Abdullah Saleh, the French envoy, Ambassador Francis Gutmann, informed us that the Eritrean Government had officially notified him on the same day that it would withdraw its forces from Yemen's Lesser Hanish Island within the next few days and would restore the situation that had prevailed prior to 10 August last. He further informed us that Eritrea's undertaking to this effect had been embodied in an official letter signed by the Eritrean Minister for Foreign Affairs and handed over to the French envoy.

The Government of my country conveys to the Council its great appreciation and gratitude for the position it has adopted with respect to these grave developments. At the same time, it wishes to place on record its great appreciation and gratitude to the French Government and its envoy, Ambassador Francis Gutmann, for their active role in defusing the dangerous situation that resulted from Eritrea's irresponsible action. It further expresses its highest appreciation and gratitude to all the States members of the Council for the great interest they have shown in the matter. The Government of my country again assures the Council that it is anxious for a peaceful solution to the ongoing dispute between it and Eritrea and that it is fully committed to the Agreement on Principles concluded by the two parties in Paris on 21 May 1996 and to the negotiations being held under the auspices of France with a view to reaching agreement on arbitration, in accordance with article 2 of the Agreement on Principles, which must be concluded by 15 October 1996.

Although it gives the foregoing assurances and although it has given the diplomatic efforts of the United Nations and France a chance to take their course and to defuse this grave situation and to bear fruit in Eritrea's undertaking, as secured by the French envoy, to withdraw its forces from Yemen's Lesser Hanish Island, the Government of my country is nevertheless beset with concern and doubts as to the possibility of deception on the part of Eritrea with respect to fulfilling the undertaking given to the French Government and, through it, to the international community as represented by the Security Council. This is particularly so since that undertaking was not linked with any deadline for the removal of the military presence from the Yemeni island. This is a matter that will doubtless be of the greatest importance for security and peace in the region and for the safety of international navigation there.

Accordingly, the Government of my country requests the Council to continue its efforts and the exercise of its good offices in order to compel the Eritrean Government to evacuate the Yemeni island within the next few days in fulfilment of the undertaking it has given to the French Government. It further requests that the matter should continue to receive the Council's consideration until such time as the Yemeni island has been cleared of the Eritrean military presence.

(Signed) Abdulkarim AL-ERYANI
Deputy Prime Minister
and Minister for Foreign Affairs

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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 20 AUGUST 1996 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF GUINEA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the Declaration on Jammu and Kashmir, adopted by the Ministerial Meeting of the Contact Group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) on Jammu and Kashmir, held at Islamabad on 13 August 1996, and the memorandum presented to the Ministerial Meeting on the same day by the true representatives of the Kashmiri people.

I would appreciate it if you could have the text of the Declaration of the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir and the memorandum of the true representatives of the Kashmiri people circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Elhadj ABOUBACAR DIONE
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex I

Report of the Ministerial Meeting of the Contact Group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on Jammu and Kashmir, held at Islamabad on 13 August 1996

A Ministerial Meeting of the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir was held at Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan on 13 August 1996.

The Meeting was opened by Her Excellency Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

The Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, His Excellency Mr. Necmettin Erbakan, also addressed the Meeting.

The Chairman of the Contact Group, His Excellency Mr. Lamine Camara, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Guinea, addressed the Meeting.

The Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, His Excellency Dr. Hamid Algabid, addressed the Meeting.

The Foreign Ministers and representatives of the Niger, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and turkey attended the Meeting.

The true representatives of the Kashmiri people, who were invited to the Meeting, addressed the Contact Group and handed over a memorandum on the "Jammu and Kashmir dispute".

The Contact Group adopted a Declaration on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute which is appended herewith.

Appendix

Declaration on Jammu and Kashmir adopted by the Ministerial Meeting of the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir, Islamabad, 13 August 1996

The Ministerial Meeting of the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir, held at Islamabad on 13 August 1996,

Reaffirming all OIC Summit and Ministerial resolutions on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute as well as the Special Declaration adopted by the seventh Islamic Summit at Casablanca,

Having reviewed the deteriorating situation in occupied Kashmir and its implications for regional peace and security,

Concerned about the staging of fraudulent elections for the Lok Sabha in occupied Kashmir, an outrage that was exposed and denounced by international media and human rights organizations,

Deeply concerned about the announcement by the Indian Government of its intention to hold State Assembly elections in occupied Kashmir in September 1996 and noting that the All Parties Hurrieyet Conference has in its capacity as the true representatives of the Kashmiri people rejected the holding of sham elections and the imposition under duress of the so-called political process in Kashmir,

Deeply alarmed by the subsequent sharp intensification of Indian repression of the Kashmiri people, especially the induction of additional troops, the use of renegades and mercenaries, armed, financed and trained by India to terrorize and intimidate the Kashmiri people and their true representatives,

Taking note of the strong condemnation by Pakistan and the true representatives of the Kashmiri people, including the leadership of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, of the deplorable act of hostage-taking by "Al Faran",

Noting the memorandum submitted by the true representatives of Jammu and Kashmir, which inter alia, asserts that the people of Jammu and Kashmir will not accept the imposition of a fraudulent political process in Kashmir and that the so-called political process or elections could not be a substitute for a plebiscite, as affirmed in Security Council resolutions 91 (1951) and 122 (1957),

Convinced that the holding of fraudulent elections would further exacerbate the sufferings of the Kashmiri people and would seriously detract from efforts to seek a just and peaceful solution to the Jammu and Kashmir dispute,

Welcoming the offer of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to have a substantive and meaningful dialogue with India with a view to finding a peaceful solution to the Jammu and Kashmir dispute,

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Regretting that the Government of India has vitiated the atmosphere for the commencement of a meaningful dialogue with Pakistan for seeking a peaceful solution to the Kashmir dispute,

Recalling the relevant United Nations resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir which remain unimplemented,

Reaffirming its solidarity with the suffering people of Kashmir,

1. Reaffirms the right of the people of Jammu and Kashmir to self-determination in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

2. Calls for a peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir issue in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and as agreed upon in the Simia Agreement;

3. Rejects India's efforts to maintain its illegal occupation of Kashmir through the holding of sham elections and by initiating a fraudulent political process;

4. Reaffirms that any political process/elections held under foreign occupation cannot be a substitute for the exercise of the right of self-determination of the people of Kashmir as is provided in the relevant Security Council resolutions;

5. Condemns the continued massive violations of human rights of the Kashmiri people and calls for respect of human rights;

6. Appeals for the immediate and safe release of all the hostages by the "Al Faran";

7. Calls upon the Government of India to respect the human rights of the Kashmiri people, rescind forthwith all repressive measures and endeavour to improve the situation in Kashmir;

8. Endorses the ongoing efforts of the Government of Pakistan to seek a peaceful solution to the Kashmir issue through all possible means, including substantive bilateral talks with India;

9. Decides that the Contact Group will meet at the United Nations in September 1996 to review the developments in Kashmir and to make recommendations to the meeting of the OIC Foreign Ministers;

10. Recommends that the OIC annual coordination meeting of Foreign Ministers in New York review the situation in Jammu and Kashmir with a view to adopting further appropriate measures;

11. Requests the Chairman to transmit this Declaration to the President of the Security Council and the United Nations Secretary-General for circulation as an official document of the Security Council, under the item "Indo-Pakistan question", and affirms that this item be retained on the agenda of the Security

Council and calls for swift implementation of United Nations resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the contents of the Declaration to the attention of the Government of India, all OIC member States, and to take other appropriate steps for its widest possible dissemination.

Annex II

Memorandum presented by the true representatives of the Kashmiri people to the Ministerial Meeting of the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir, held at Islamabad on 13 August 1996

The Kashmir representatives,

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council upholding the right to self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir,

Condemn the serious crimes and inhuman atrocities of genocide, massacres, extrajudicial killings, reprisal killings, arbitrary detention, torture, use of rape as an instrument of suppression, burning of houses, villages and townships, and destruction and desecration of holy places, committed by the Indian Government, through its military and paramilitary personnel, renegades and mercenaries, in Jammu and Kashmir during the last seven years;

Affirm that, despite the concentration of nearly 700,000 Indian troops in Jammu and Kashmir, massive repression of unarmed civilians, including women and children, and destruction of the economic means for productive employment, the Indian Government has failed to crush the will of the people of Jammu and Kashmir;

Affirm their rejection of the efforts by India to institute the so-called "political process" in Kashmir the sole purpose of which is to deny the Kashmiri people their right of self-determination;

Recall that the Security Council has clearly enunciated that, on the basis of the agreement concluded between India and Pakistan, the final disposition of the state of Jammu and Kashmir will be made in accordance with the will of the people expressed through the democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite conducted under the auspices of the United Nations;

Also recall that the United Nations Security Council has declared that the creation of a Constituent Assembly or the holding of any elections in Jammu and Kashmir by the Indian Government would not be a substitute for a fair and impartial plebiscite mandated by the Security Council to determine the will of the people of Kashmir;

Declare that any elections organized by the Indian Government cannot be a substitute for the plebiscite pledged by the United Nations to the people of Jammu and Kashmir;

Strongly oppose the farce of fraudulent elections being imposed by the Indian Government on the people of Jammu and Kashmir;

Express deep concern at the induction of additional troops and deployment of an elaborate apparatus by India to terrorize and coerce the people of Jammu and Kashmir into participating in the Indian-sponsored elections;

Express alarm at the intensified campaign of repression, intimidation and persecution launched against the leaders of the All Parties Hurriyet Conference to quell their opposition to the fraudulent elections;

Condemn the use by India of renegades and mercenaries to harass, persecute and intimidate the people of Kashmir;

Endorse and support the efforts of the Government of Pakistan to find a peaceful solution to the Kashmir issue by all available means;

Resolve that:

(a) The people of Indian-held Kashmir will not participate in any elections held under Indian occupation;

(b) The people of Jammu and Kashmir will continue the struggle for their freedom and the realization of their right to self-determination;

(c) The aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir constitute the sole basis of the final disposition of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute;

Call on:

(a) The OIC Contact Group on Kashmir to impress upon the Indian Government to desist from exacerbating tension in Jammu and Kashmir and between India and Pakistan by staging an electoral farce;

(b) The OIC Contact Group on Kashmir to remind India that the proposed elections in Jammu and Kashmir are in contravention of Security Council resolutions 91 (1951) and 122 (1957), which have clearly affirmed that any action that (the Indian Government) may have taken, or might attempt to take to determine the future shape and affiliation (of Jammu and Kashmir) would not constitute a disposition of the State in terms of these resolutions;

(c) The Organization of the Islamic Conference to renew to the Government of India its offer of sending its fact-finding and good offices missions to Jammu and Kashmir;

(d) The United Nations to hold a plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir, without further delay, in accordance with Security Council resolutions;

(e) The United Nations Secretary-General to initiate a process of mediation to pave the way for the holding of a plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir as laid down by the Security Council;

(f) The Security Council to ask India to withdraw its army of occupation from Jammu and Kashmir;

(g) The international community to put pressure on India to give full access to international human rights organizations to visit Jammu and Kashmir;

(h) The Government of Pakistan to continue its efforts for a peaceful solution of the Kashmir issue, keeping in view the sentiments of the Kashmiri people, through all possible means, including a substantive and meaningful dialogue with India;

Appeal to all peace-loving people and nations of the world to help and support the people of Jammu and Kashmir in their struggle for the realization of their right to self-determination promised to them under Security Council resolutions.

UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1996/679
21 August 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 21 AUGUST 1996 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward, on behalf of His Excellency, General Sani Abacha, Head of State of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the text of the final communiqué issued at the end of the fourth meeting of Heads of State and Government of the ECOWAS Committee of Nine on Liberia, which was held at Abuja, Nigeria, on 17 August 1996. I would be grateful if the text could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Isaac L. AYEWAH
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.

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Annex

Final communiqué of the Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States Committee of Nine of Liberia, on its fourth meeting, held at Abuja on 17 August 1996

1. The Heads of State and Government of the Committee of Nine on Liberia held their fourth meeting at the Executive Secretariat of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) at Abuja on 17 August 1996, under the chairmanship of His Excellency, General Sani Abacha, Head of State, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and current Chairman of the ECOWAS Authority. The Heads of State and Government reviewed the situation in Liberia and considered ways to put the Liberian peace process back on course, in conformity with the Abuja Accord.

2. The following Heads of State and Government or their duly accredited representatives were present at the meeting:

His Excellency Matthieu Kerekou
President of the Republic of Benin
Head of Government

His Excellency Blaise Compaore
President of Burkina Faso
Head of Government

His Excellency Jerry John Rawlings
President of the Republic of Ghana

His Excellency General Sani Abacha
Head of State, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

His Excellency Captain Edward Singhatay
Vice-President and Minister of Defence of The Gambia
Representing the President of the Republic of The Gambia

Mr. Barry Moussa Barque
Minister of State
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Togolese Republic
Representing the President of the Togolese Republic

Mr. Amara Essy
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
Representing the President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

His Excellency Lamine Camara
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Guinea
Representing the President of the Republic of Guinea

Mr. Massokhna Kane
Minister of African Economic Integration of the Republic of Senegal
Representing the President of the Republic of Senegal

3. The following guests were also present at the session:

His Excellency Professor Wilton Sankawulo
President of the Council of State of the Liberia National Transitional Government

His Excellency Alpha Oumar Konare
President and Head of State of the Republic of Mali

His Excellency Ibrahim Mainassara Bare
President of the Republic of the Niger

His Excellency Alhaji Ahmad Tejan Kabbah
President of the Republic of Sierra Leone

4. The following were invited as observers:

- OAU Eminent Person in Liberia

- Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in Liberia

5. The following persons also attended the meeting in an advisory capacity:

- Mr. Edouard Benjamin, ECOWAS Executive Secretary

- Major-General Victor S. Malu, ECOWAS Cease-fire Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) Field Commander

6. The fourth meeting of Heads of State and Government of the Committee of Nine was preceded by a meeting of Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces of ECOWAS member States and a meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Committee of Nine on Liberia.

7. The Heads of State and Government reviewed the situation in Liberia as presented in the report on the thirteenth meeting of Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces of ECOWAS member States and the report on the eighth meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Committee of Nine on Liberia. They considered ways to bring the Liberian peace process back on course and focused attention on the following issues:

(a) Assessment of the implementation of the Accra mechanism;

(b) Extension of the Abuja Peace Agreement of August 1995 and review of its schedule of implementation;

(c) Measures to ensure compliance with the peace plan by the Liberian parties;

(d) Performance of the Council of State;

(e) Status of Monrovia;

(f) Elections in Liberia;

(g) Strengthening of ECOMOG;

(h) Restructuring the armed forces, police and other security agents;

(i) Return of arms seized from ECOMOG and property looted from the United Nations and other agencies;

(j) Humanitarian assistance to Liberia.

ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACCRA MECHANISM

The Heads of State and Government noted the non-observance of several important obligations inherent in the mechanism put in place at the seventh meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Committee of Nine with the aim of relaunching the peace process.

EXTENSION OF THE ABUJA AGREEMENT OF 19 AUGUST 1995 AND REVIEW OF ITS IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed that the Abuja Agreement, which was designed to usher in peace and lead to the organization of free and democratic elections on 20 August 1996 remained the most appropriate legal framework for finding a peaceful settlement to the Liberian crisis. They therefore decided that it should be retained in its entirety. However, given that very little progress had been made in its application, it had not been possible to adhere to its implementation schedule.

Consequently, the Heads of State and Government reaffirmed that the Abuja Agreement remained the best and last framework for finding durable peace in Liberia and should thus be retained in its entirety. It was therefore agreed that the validity of the Abuja Agreement should be extended for another nine months, from 21 August 1996 to 15 June 1997, and that the following programme of implementation should be undertaken before the holding of free, fair and democratic elections on or about 31 May 1997.

20-31 August 1996	Cease-fire, disengagement of factions from checkpoints and present combat positions
1 September 1996- 30 November 1996	Delivery of logistic supplies by the international/donor community to ECOMOG
20 August 1996-	Verification of cease-fire and disengagement

31 January 1997	by ECOMOG, United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) and Liberia National Transitional Government
3-10 October 1996	Assessment meeting in Liberia by Chairman's Special Envoy with ECOMOG, UNOMIL, representatives of donor community and Liberia National Transitional Government
12 October 1996- 31 January 1997	Reconnaissance mission by ECOMOG and UNOMIL of arms collection centres
4-8 November 1996	Committee of Nine meeting (Ministerial) at Monrovia
7 November 1996- 31 January 1997	Deployment of ECOMOG to agreed safe havens by Committee of Nine
22 November 1996- 31 January 1997	Disarmament, demobilization and repatriation
6-13 January 1997	Verification visit to Liberia by Chairman's Special Envoy, with ECOMOG, UNOMIL, representatives of donor community and Liberia National Transitional Government
20 January-15 April 1997	Preparation for elections
10-15 March 1997	Committee of Nine meeting, Monrovia
17-24 April 1997	Assessment visit to Liberia by Chairman's Special Envoy, with ECOMOG, UNOMIL, representatives of donor community and Liberia National Transitional Government
30 May 1997	Election Day

The new schedule of implementation of the Abuja Agreement also provides for the dissolution of all factions by 31 January 1997, resignation by 28 February 1997 of the members of the Council of State and public office holders who wish to run for election. The new Government is expected to be sworn in on 15 June 1997.

The Heads of State and Government adopted a mechanism designed to ensure strict compliance with the peace plan by all Liberian parties.

MEASURES TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE PEACE PLAN

The Heads of State and Government deplored the lack of sincerity and commitment shown by the Liberian factions to the peace process. They therefore adopted a decision envisaging measures that might be invoked against any persons

found guilty of acts capable of obstructing the peace plan concluded by the signatories to the Abuja Agreement. Such measures that would be invoked against any defaulting party would include:

(a) Restrictions on travel and residence;

(b) Freezing of business activities and assets in member States;

(c) Exclusion from participation in the electoral process;

(d) Restrictions on the use of the airspace and territorial waters of member States;

(e) Expulsion of members of the families of the Liberian leaders and their associates from the territories of member States;

(f) Request that the United Nations Security Council impose visa restrictions;

(g) Restrictions on imports from Liberia;

(h) Invoking of the Organization of African Unity 1996 Summit resolution calling for the establishment of a war crimes tribunal to try all human rights offences against Liberians.

The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the need for member States to observe the arms embargo declared against the warring factions and therefore adopted a decision designed to ensure strict compliance therewith. They urged member States, particularly countries bordering Liberia, to adopt all measures to stop the flow of arms from their territories into that country and noted with appreciation the measures taken by the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire in that connection. They recognized the right of ECOMOG to carry out a search on anyone, including members of the Liberia National Transitional Government and any other government official in the territory of Liberia.

ECOMOG was directed to ensure that only airports under its control were operational. The Heads of State and Government decided to set up a committee to monitor the implementation of the peace plan. This committee may prescribe sanctions to be taken by member States against persons who obstruct the implementation of the peace plan. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their resolve not to recognize any Government that comes to power by force of arms.

PERFORMANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE

The Heads of State and Government were concerned about the performance of the Council of State and felt that a change in the leadership of the Council would improve its effectiveness and cohesiveness.

The Heads of State and Government, therefore, agreed to the appointment by the signatories to the Abuja Agreement of Mrs. Ruth Perry, a former senator of

the Republic of Liberia, as the new Chairman of the Council of State. The Heads of State expressed their appreciation to the departing Chairman, Professor Wilton Sankawulo, for his services, which were rendered under rather difficult circumstances.

They also stressed that, if in future any Council member was found wanting, that member would be replaced.

The Heads of State and Government adopted a code of conduct to be observed by members of the Council of State and other public office holders in implementing the Abuja Agreement which would be used as a yardstick for assessing their performance, individually and collectively.

Status of Monrovia

The Heads of State and Government expressed satisfaction at the measures taken by ECOMOG to restore relative calm to Monrovia. However, they expressed concern at the recent incidents of harassment, abduction and assassination of civilian members of rival factions or other ethnic groups. They strongly condemned the growing tendency to partition the city of Monrovia along factional lines and mandated ECOMOG to intensify its efforts to restore Monrovia and its environs to their original safe haven status.

ELECTIONS IN LIBERIA

The Heads of State and Government noted that, because of the failure of successive peace plans, it had been impossible to organize free, fair and democratic elections. They directed that the process be set in motion for the holding of elections in Liberia on or about 30 May 1997. To this end, they recommended that modalities for the organization of elections be formulated, taking into account the electoral laws of Liberia.

They appealed to the United Nations, donors and non-governmental organizations for support in ensuring that the elections are successfully organized.

STRENGTHENING OF ECOMOG

The Heads of State and Government took note of the fact that successful implementation of the peace plan would require the deployment of 18,000 troops to Liberia. They commended the efforts of those member States of ECOWAS that had promised to contribute troops once adequate logistic support was provided.

The Heads of State and Government expressed gratitude to the Government of the United States of America which has embarked on its second assistance package involving the provision of logistics and communications equipment.

RESTRUCTURING OF THE ARMED FORCES, POLICE AND OTHER SECURITY FORCES

The Heads of State and Government expressed grave concern about the fact that security agencies have deep affiliations with the factions, and condemned the control wielded over the police by fighters and non-qualified personnel.

They endorsed the proposal to restructure the armed forces, the police and other security forces to reflect geographical and ethnic balance. They noted the offer made by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to sponsor the "train the trainers" programme. ECOWAS should look into the possibility of obtaining the required assistance from countries within the region.

RETURN OF ARMS SEIZED FROM ECOMOG AND PROPERTY LOOTED FROM THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER AGENCIES

The Heads of State and Government strongly condemned the seizure of ECOMOG arms and ammunition by fighters belonging to the armed factions. They also condemned the looting of vehicles and other assets from the United Nations and non-governmental organizations. The Heads of State and Government directed Liberian faction leaders to return the arms and ammunition seized from ECOMOG and to release to the United Nations and other organizations the vehicles and other property looted from them. They called on the authorities of countries bordering Liberia to assist in identifying, confiscating and returning such property in their territory to their rightful owners.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LIBERIA

The Heads of State and Government firmly condemned the crimes, atrocities and other acts committed by the Liberian fighters that violate the rules of armed warfare. They issued a new warning to the factions to desist from such acts, which are offensive to the international community. The Heads of State and Government directed the faction leaders and their fighters to undertake to abide by the terms of the Geneva Convention of 12 August 1994 and the annexed Protocols as well as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. They called on the faction leaders to guarantee the safety of relief personnel in Liberia, to enable them to resume their operations.

The Heads of State and Government expressed gratitude to the Organization of African Unity and to the United Nations for their constant support in the quest for peace in Liberia.

At the end of their deliberations, the Heads of State and Government expressed their sincere gratitude and deep appreciation to His Excellency, General Sani Abacha and to the Government and people of Nigeria for the warm, brotherly hospitality extended to them during their stay in Abuja.

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S/1996/679/Corr.1
26 August 1996

ENGLISH ONLY

LETTER DATED 21 AUGUST 1996 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Corrigendum

Page 1

The signature should read

Isaac E. AYEWAH
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.

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